WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

Green innovations flourish on campus

INSIDE

Why world-champion surfer picked Island University
Islander tapped by White House
Dr. Eliot Chenaux retiring
Welcome to the future.

Take a look around. The wind turbines dotting the landscape of the Island University are just the most visible sign of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s commitment to a new era in innovation. From harnessing wind and solar energy to constructing buildings to the U.S. Green Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications, we are among the leaders in developing and utilizing green technology for academic, research, and economic purposes.

The key to success in the global community is to “Grow Smarter,” a philosophy that is at the heart of the University’s role as the leading institution of higher learning in South Texas. As all Texas universities become more reliant on the support of friends and alumni who understand the importance of investing in the future, it is our responsibility to make the most of our resources while providing our students with a superior education and investing in careers and research that are vital to the economic and social well-being of the Coastal Bend.

Today, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi provides more than 10,000 students with a challenging academic curriculum that offers new programs ranging from a cooperative Ph.D. in nursing, to a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, and a minor in philosophy. The Island University’s tropical surroundings also incorporate five research centers that enable our faculty and students to conduct groundbreaking research. Among these projects are the Unmanned Aerial Systems Initiative which is developing applications for wildlife inventory, border security, and hurricane research monitoring; and the Plasma Engineering Research Lab where technologies are being developed for scientific, engineering, and biomedical applications.

Our goal for tomorrow is clear. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is committed to becoming one of the leading centers of higher education in the Gulf of Mexico region while serving the intellectual, cultural, social, environmental and economic needs of South Texas. We are proud to be leading South Texas into the 21st century. By preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community we are ensuring that tomorrow’s future is even brighter than today’s, both for our graduates and for the world in which we live.
**Dr. Luis Cifuentes Leads Research Coordination Network**

Dr. Luis Cifuentes, interim vice president for Research, Commercialization and Outreach, is principal investigator for the Research Coordination Network CEESAR (Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semi-arid Regions), which is accessing the availability and use of water in South Texas among other resources.

Funded by a five-year $750,000 National Science Foundation grant, the network is focusing on the effects of changes in the region’s climate, energy production, and environment region, and the impact these changes will have on the area’s increasing Hispanic population over the next 20 years.

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**Bill Cone Named Interim Director of Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center**

Bill Cone has been named interim director of the University’s Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center. The Center promotes small business development and entrepreneurial economic development in the Coastal Bend.

Cone previously served as executive vice president at Kleberg Bank in Corpus Christi; regional president of Wells Fargo/Norwest Bank Texas; and as president and chief executive officer of Citizens Bank in New Braunfels, Texas. He earned his BBA in Finance from the University of Texas and graduated with distinction from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

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**of Service, Growth and Pride**

Dr. Eliot Chenaux retires on May 31, 2012. He joined the faculty at what was then Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1976 as an assistant professor of Spanish and, in 1991, became dean of students. For the last 13 years, he has served as vice president for Student Affairs. Recently, he spoke with Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, about his 36 years at the Island University.

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**Q.** You were a swimmer for Puerto Rico in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. With roots on an island so many miles away, how did you end up here?

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**Q.** How did you end up making Texas A&M-Corpus Christi your home?

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**Q.** What is the first thing you plan to do immediately after starting your retirement?

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**Q.** What will you miss most about Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi?

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**Q.** What did you do while you were a student? I feel like you were working your entire life, as you had to make ends meet. If they just had a scholarship because one of the hardest parts of my job is seeing hard working students working so many hours to make ends meet. If they just had a scholarship, they might be able to raise their GPA, and concentrate more on their studies. I had scholarships. They helped me get through school.

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**Q.** What will you miss most about Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi?

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**Q.** What will you miss most about Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi? A. The people. I told Dr. Killebrew that if he would anything that I will be here, whether it’s talking to donors or talking to students. I’m going to miss the faculty members, hometown parades, and talking to students.

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**Q.** You were a swimmer for Puerto Rico in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. With roots on an island so many miles away, how did you end up here?

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**Q.** Grew up in Puerto Rico, education was very important. I had two brothers. My parents made sure that the three of us had gotten an education. My dad had not gone to college in that’s what he wanted us to do. We were sent to private schools to get the best education we could. Then I came to the states to go to college, thinking somebody I would go back, but that never happened.

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**Q.** What will you miss most about Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi? A. People that know me know I love the University and I love my family. Those are the two most important things to me. We just did an evaluation of the University, and everything is in great shape. The food balances are in very good shape. And we just won a national award.

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**Q.** How did you end up making Texas A&M-Corpus Christi your home?

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Blowing in the Wind

On a balmy January afternoon, Enes Yilmazer loads his sailboard into his SUV and heads for the beach where the waters of the Gulf of Mexico lap onto the shores of Ward Island, home to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The warm temperatures and steady winds are typical for this time of year in the Coastal Bend and the world champion windsurfer seize the opportunity to get in some practice time before heading to the school library to work on a class assignment.

It’s an ideal world for the reigning world champion in the PWA Men’s Slalom U22 World Youth division, but it didn’t happen by accident. By the time he was 16, Yilmazer was already planning for the day when he would leave his home in Alacati, Turkey, for a university where he could pursue a business degree and train for major competitions year round. In the end he decided that, with its outstanding academic programs and sub-tropical climate, the Island University offered the best of both worlds.

“What I love most about windsurfing is the freedom,” says Yilmazer. “When you get on the water, you really only focus on you and water. You isolate yourself from your own life and windsurfing is the thing that matters most.”

In 2007, Yilmazer came to the Island University to take advantage of bountiful wind and ideal weather conditions for year-round windsurfing and he hasn’t been disappointed. The windsurfing community at large has also taken note.

“Corpus Christi hides a world-class windsurfing destination right in our nation’s backyard,” says Windsurfing Magazine from June 2009.

During January of this year, temperatures climbed into the upper 70s and, according to the National Weather Service, fastest sustained winds exceeded 35 mph. These optimum conditions have led to more practice time and more awards.

“The weather in Corpus Christi allows me to participate in water sports 12 months out of the year,” says Yilmazer, who windsurfs on the beach in front of the University. “In Turkey, windsurfing is more of a seasonal sport because the weather is so cold.”

Yilmazer, who discovered the sport when he was 13, regularly competes in major events from Miami, Fla., and Maui, Hawaii, in the United States, to the Mediterranean countries of Turkey and Spain, as well as the Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa. Despite a demanding schedule, Yilmazer handles a full academic course load, serves as vice president of the Corpus Christi Windsurfing Association, and is a member of the Turkish Student Association.

Through his journeys, Yilmazer has also made many friendships, some that will last a lifetime. He met Avery Merrifield, a communications major from League City, Texas, when they became roommates in 2009 and, although Merrifield graduated a year later, the two still keep in touch and occasionally surf together.

“Enes is really passionate about everything he does,” says Merrifield, a roofs sales representative. “It was really cool to be able to exchange cultures and learn about our similarities and differences. I never thought that I would make a close friend from Turkey. He is very business centered so we always talked about different business ideas, which were beneficial to both of us.”

Venesha Irurhe, a marketing major from Jamaica, was introduced to Yilmazer through mutual friends. During her recent holiday trip to Turkey, she communicated via Facebook with Yilmazer, who gave her tips on what foods to try and places to check out. She even visited his hometown.

Back on campus, Irurhe, meets up with Yilmazer and other friends between classes and on weekends. She describes him as “friendly and down-to-earth,” but it’s his ability to keep up with his studies despite extensive traveling, that really impresses her.

“I’m amazed that he can balance traveling all over the world with being a good student,” she says. “When we’re in the library, he is usually there studying.”

Yilmazer calls Corpus Christi his second home and, through his penchant for community service, has made connections with city leaders.

“I feel that I have bonded with this community,” he says. “Corpus Christi has a great future, and if I can be a part of that, more power to me.”
Most people who think of elite sports training imagine running, weightlifting, or practicing the physical mechanics of a sport’s particular motion. They generally don’t think of an athlete reacting to a panel of illuminated buttons or wearing 3-D glasses while manipulating digital images.

This sort of training for the eyes, however, is a new frontier of elite performance sports, one that a research team in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Department of Kinesiology is helping pioneer. Since 2006, Kinesiology Professor Frank Spaniol and his research team have studied the relationships between visual skills and athletic performance.

“Just by observing an athlete, you can usually see if they’re strong or if they’re fast,” says Spaniol, one of the nation’s leading experts on biomechanics. “It’s hard to determine how well they can see. We’ve consistently found that the best athletes also have the best visual skills.”

Spaniol stresses that visual skills should not be confused with visual acuity which depends on the sharpness of the retinal focus within the eye and is often correctable. Athletes with corrected eyesight can still perform at top levels, but those with poor visual skills rarely make the elite ranks.

The team’s research has revealed that athletes can train and improve visual skills just as they can other physiological attributes. In professional sports where players spend years honing and fine-tuning their skills, the discovery of another realm for improvement can translate to a new edge on competition.

Most recently, the Kinesiology research team has begun investigating the effects of age on athletes’ vision. Preliminary data suggests that as they age, athletes’ visual skills typically decline. In this era of star veteran athletes striving to extend their careers in professional sports, the opportunity to stem the decline of visual skills can literally be worth millions.

This pioneering research from the Island University has made waves in athletic programs around the world. Spaniol has presented the team’s research findings at conferences in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Shanghai, China, as well as Portugal’s Olympic training center in Lisbon, and the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. He is working with the United States Tennis Association to investigate the effect of visual skills on tennis performance, and he has discussed his findings on ESPN Radio Chicago.

Spanish and Dr. Randy Bonnette have worked spring training with Major League Baseball teams including the Cincinnati Reds and Milwaukee Brewers. In addition, Spanish and fellow researcher Dr. Jay Davies have been named fellows of the National Strength and Conditioning Association, an honor bestowed upon fewer than 60 people in the history of the 30,000-member professional organization.

The 5,000-square-foot biomechanics lab, part of the 140,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Island Hall that houses kinesiology and nursing programs, has helped the researchers produce some of the world’s leading studies on visual skills and sports performance. Facilities include drop-down nets for indoor batting and throwing, and 3-D video and motion analysis equipment, and vision training technology including Dynavision D2 and Visual Edge.

“We definitely have one of the leading sport science research facilities in the United States,” Spaniol says. “Island Hall has had a dramatic impact on our ability to conduct world-class sport science research.”

Special education students face plenty of challenges at school, from physical to social, to emotional. Dr. Karen McCal, associate professor with the College of Education, is working to ease a challenge especially key to their futures: learning.

The Digital Book Project is allowing disabled students to take charge of their education and meet TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) state curriculum standards by presenting material in formats they can access, sometimes literally in the blink of an eye.

“We know that kids with severe cognitive and physical disabilities can learn, but they’ve not always had ways to learn,” McCale says. “Digital books provide access to the general education curriculum, and we can present and teach it to the child on whatever level they may be.”

McCal, an expert on educating students with severe and profound disabilities, created the Digital Book Project with Kimberly Cook, an assistive technology specialist at the Education Service Center, Region 2. The project enables kindergarteners through grade 12 students with disabilities to learn the same concepts and vocabulary words as their peers, even if they aren’t able to turn a page or listen to a lecture.

“Electronic books mean easier access for more people,” McCal says. “Electronic formats are more easily manipulated to meet individual needs, and they’re more flexible in tutorial design. We want each book to be strong in content, flexible, universally designed, simple to create, and easy to share.”

McCale and Cook have fine-tuned a template that presents on-screen content in plain black type against a white background. Each page is designed to present a single graphic and a manageable amount of text. They chose PowerPoint to create templates, due to its ease of use and its wide availability on school and home computers.

The single switch action of moving, forward or backward through pages is alternate mouse compatible, allowing students to access the books through assistive technology customized to their abilities. Students with very limited mobility may control a computer by blinking their eyes, or using their mouths or cheeks. Other students might use a joystick, touchpad, trackball, or other device.

This isn’t the first project to create digital books for special needs students, but according to teacher feedback, it has proven the most effective. Anyone can write and submit books, but each submission is edited by educators and is specifically aligned with grade level and curriculum requirements. The flexibility of the templates allows teachers to easily change colors, text size, content, and backgrounds to fit individual students’ needs.

“Any book that’s up here can be modified to fit any kid’s needs,” McCal says. “A child with special needs doesn’t necessarily have to learn in the same way as everyone else. But they have to learn.”

Demand for the books is exploding as word gets out among teachers and researchers. McCale and Cook have presented the Digital Book Project at national conferences and are in the midst of launching a free online library. As big a difference as the program is making to teachers, the greater impact lies with the students using it. “Any book that’s up here can be modified to fit any kid’s needs,” McCale says. “Children with special needs don’t necessarily have to learn in the same way as everyone else. But they have to learn.”

Students with very limited mobility may control a computer by blinking their eyes or using their mouths or cheeks.
Izzy the Islander” was light on his feet as he dashed down the court, executing a series of back flips, and showed off break dance moves to cheering fans. The grand entrance during the men’s basketball game against Texas Tech last December was the much-anticipated introduction of the University’s restyled mascot, a transformation that was months in the making.

Last year, a group of student leaders, alumni, faculty, and staff met for a semester to discuss ways to revamp the University’s beloved mascot. In the end, everyone agreed on new accessories for Izzy that reflect the unique Islander lifestyle while also allowing him the flexibility to safely show off his game-day toughness on the sidelines. For weeks prior to the game, the “Izzy Recharge” project was captured on video with fans going to the University’s website to witness the Islander mascot evolve into a 21st century warrior.

Followers were able to immediately pick up on the most distinct changes including: a more sculpted physique and snazzy board shorts to replace a stringy grass skirt. Other major upgrades included the addition of a game face, a more compact mask, and “pearly whites,” so Izzy can flash a winning smile.

Izzy fans like alumnus Chris King (BA’06, MS’11) who “bled blue and green” have kept up with the mascot’s transformation via the University’s Facebook page and shared their comments.

“I like Izzy’s new appearance. He looks like he’s been hitting the weights. Because he’s toned up, he can move around more at games and inject more spirit into the stands to draw a bigger reaction from the fans.”

Over the seven years that Izzy has been the number one fan at Islanders events, he has cheered on the 2007 men’s basketball team that made it to the NCAA Tournament and the 2011 Southland Conference champion softball team. And he’s always equally at ease out in the community where he often represents Texas A&M-Corpus Christi during visits with elementary school students.

While University President Flavius Killebrew acknowledges that Izzy has been adored by fans since his debut in 2004, he points out that the new look Izzy better represents the future of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

“The upgraded Izzy has a more toned and fit appearance, but captures the essence of the old Izzy,” he says. “He’s now able to be more actively involved in events and I’m sure that fans appreciate his new moves.”

See it for yourself! Play the video at TAMUCC.edu
Welcome TO THE FUTURE

Over the past five years, University leaders have been taking a forward look at what the growth on campus can symbolize for the future of the University and the Coastal Bend. The results are now a reality all over campus, from the details at the Michael and Karen O’Connor Building like the water-efficient toilets and our revamped campus recycling program, to the massive water-collecting systems on several campus buildings that use condensate and rain water for irrigation.

Today, four new projects are strengthening the University’s reputation as a leader in green technologies. Spanning across the College of Science and Engineering, the College of Business, and the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, each effort takes into account the unique qualities of our Coastal Bend community.

These sustainable projects harness wind and solar energy, conserve electricity, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. They help make the University not only a consumer of green energy, but a top developer and researcher for the clean technologies of the future.
It’s a spring renewal of sorts as the Island University constructs three 20-kilowatt vertical-axis wind turbines, which help make up the largest installation of this kind in the United States. In all, three Texas A&M-Corpus Christi locations will showcase a total of 11 wind turbines.

“Vertical axis wind turbine performance,” says Dr. L.D. Chen, director of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, “is one of the few cities in the nation to pass an ordinance that allows businesses and private citizens to install wind turbines on their properties, and the University is taking the lead on this,” he says.

As part of the installation, a small 4-kilowatt campus wind turbine, which is mounted on a silo-type tower, can be lowered horizontally and opened for inspection and service.

“We can demonstrate its components more closely for students,” says Smionescu. “They can also conduct measurements of power output, performance, and rotational speeds.”

The power output and wind conditions will be monitored throughout the day. The data will be posted on a website and available to students or others interested in renewable energy and offshore wind technology, which interests him.

“Typically, we have high-speed winds in the afternoon, so the wind is in sync with the high power demand as we transition to the peak-load demand phase,” he explains. "As many other locations across the country, the needed high-speed winds occur at night outside of the peak-load demand phase."

The installation of vertical axis wind turbines at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is creating educational benefits, the wind turbine project will significantly increase the University’s installed capacity of renewable energy, and greatly reduce its carbon footprint, saving an estimated $18,000 to $25,000 a year in utility costs.

The project is-funded by a $955,000 Distributed Renewable Energy Technology Stimulus Grant from the State Energy Conservation Office with the University matching $265,000 in funds, for a total of $1.2 million for the project. The wind turbines are distributed by 3eWerks, a green company at the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, and manufactured by Urban Green Energy, the world’s leading manufacturer of vertical axis wind turbines.

“Vertical axis wind turbines are more urban friendly because of their pleasant appearance and less sensitivity to turbulent wind caused by surrounding buildings.”

“Cultivating a New Generation of Wind Technology

The installation of vertical axis wind turbines at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is creating educational opportunities for learning, research, and innovation to apply engineering principles to real-world wind power generation.

“Small wind turbine technology is an emerging technology for distributed and community wind power generation that has seen a significant increase in installed electricity generation over the past 10 years,” says Dr. L.D. Chen, director of School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. “The small wind turbines on campus are excellent laboratory for the faculty and students to engage in wind turbine research and innovative solutions to harvest rich wind resources in our region.”

According to Chen, working with the wind turbines will also allow faculty and students to establish expertise in the testing and certification of vertical axis wind turbines. Codes and standards for installation of this class of wind turbine were recently adopted by the International Electrotechnical Commission, the recognized international body for standards development activities, and American Wind Energy Association to measure the harvesting of wind energy for electricity generation.

“Small wind turbines are selected in influenced by local conditions,” explains Chen. “The wind turbine blade design and the drivetrain implementation are largely determined by the wind resources and environmental characteristics of the region.”

Conclusion

In addition to an array of educational benefits, the wind turbine project will significantly increase the University’s installed capacity of renewable energy, and greatly reduce its carbon footprint, saving an estimated $18,000 to $25,000 a year in utility costs.

The wind turbines will produce an estimated 217,946 kilowatt hours of electricity generated from renewable resources every year.

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“The 20-kilowatt vertical axis wind turbines that will be installed on campus are the largest of their kind in the continental United States,” says 3eWerks CEO Byron Loflin. “The combined total capacity of 92 kilowatts of all 11 wind turbines makes this the largest vertical axis wind turbine installation in the nation.”
Through its partnership with the Green Mountain Energy “Sun Club,” the University is converting sunlight into pollution-free electricity, significantly reducing both utility bills and the University’s carbon footprint. In February, Green Mountain Energy donated $75,000 for the installation of solar panels on the Engineering Building that will allow the University to increase its use of sustainable energy. Both researchers and students will receive strong educational benefits from the technology which is the first sponsored green initiative at the Island University.

“This (partnership) is a natural fit for us because of what the University is going to do with the solar array,” says Tony Napoliello, manager of the Sun Club at Green Mountain Energy Company. “The engineering program is going to use the panels to figure out how solar energy can be made more efficient, and that is right in line with our mission to change the way that power is made.”

The Green Mountain solar project will also be integrated into the University’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) outreach activities. Future activities will include summer renewable energy camps for high school teachers and students to increase awareness, interest, and support of the utilization, development, and advancement of solar energy-based electricity generation. A website monitor is also being established to observe the multiple types of sustainable energy resources that are being used on campus.

“The Green Mountain solar project will enable the engineering program to expand its capabilities for high school teachers and students to increase awareness, interest, and support of the utilization, development, and advancement of solar energy-based electricity generation. A website monitor is also being established to observe the multiple types of sustainable energy resources that are being used on campus.

On Earth Day 2011, Green Mountain Energy’s Sun Club presented the Art Museum of South Texas with a check for $40,000 to fund a 25-kilowatt solar panel system that, over its 30-year lifespan, is expected to save the Museum approximately $150,000 in energy costs. At the same time, an estimated 42,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) will be removed from that atmosphere each year.

The solar array is the first to power an art museum in South Texas. In addition to reducing energy costs and the Museum's carbon footprint, the array is being used as a tool to educate patrons and visitors on the benefits of solar energy.

“It is through the commitment of community and business leaders that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been transformed from a small upper-level university into a major four-year institution with five colleges and a growing state and national reputation for excellence,” says University President Flavio Killebrew. “We’re proud to have Green Mountain Energy Company as a partner for our community as we move toward our goal of becoming a premiere research institution.”

In the near future, piles of brown dirt will appear next to the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center. While it’s not a landscaping project, it is a sign of green growth in the construction of a building utilizing the latest environmental technologies.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has awarded the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center $3.4 million to assist entrepreneurial businesses that are developing energy-efficient and cost-saving technologies.

Regional program officer Rick Sebenoler presented the EDA check to the University’s College of Business last November to fund the construction of a “Go Green” Center. This marks the second grant the Innovation Center has received from the EDA since 2011.

“When we award a grant like this, we’re looking at it as an investment and where we can get the best return on that investment,” Sebenoler says. “The University is proactive and growing, and in many respects, that is a reflection of the community.”

Sebenoler also points out that incubators associated with higher education have a much higher rate of success than others.

“Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is emerging as an institution with strong research programs in the renewable energy field and the Innovation Center provides the environment to develop these emerging technologies into viable businesses,” he says.

“With the College of Business providing management and operational guidance, the Center will be an ideal environment for creating new economic opportunities,” he says.

Bill Cone, interim director of the The Green Center will help us attract new clients to create more jobs and revenue for the area.”

The 5,000 square-foot light manufacturing building will be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specifications, with an exterior warehouse and lab space for clients. “LEED certifies a building as being energy efficient while providing the best environment for occupants and represents a great example of balancing environment and business responsibilities,” says Schneller. Examples of LEED strategies for the new center include LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and window solar film and interior finishes and materials that are compatible with LEED standards, heating and air-conditioning system adjustments, low-water usage fixtures and more efficient hand dryers in the restrooms.

The Innovation Center’s 35,500-square-foot building will also be updated to improve its current LEED score with the latest green technology, additional security, and amenities to assist those with disabilities.

“The benefit of re-using an existing building is the same as that associated with recycling any item,” explains Schneller. “It reduces the need for new materials and of hauling demolished building material to a landfill. It just makes good business sense as it provides a better working environment for users while using existing resources.”

In this issue, the Business Innovation Center has 43 active clients who have created more than 80 direct jobs with approximately $2.4 million in salaries and an estimated 200 jobs for the Coastal Bend economy.

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In fall 2010, Ferrell received a University environmental service fee proposal for the Jeff and Mary Bell Library. When asked if she was happy with the progression of her campaign, Ferrell says, “I have been so eager to help me. There are many people who are interested in the environment.” Ferrell submitted her idea in spring 2011. In her position with 3E Werks, a Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center company, she was later promoted to marketing specialist.

The LED lighting project was funded by the University’s Environmental Service Fee Refund. In fall 2011, students voted to implement the “green fee” into their tuition, to create a fund specifically dedicated to sustainable and environmentally friendly efforts at the University. The program is one of many green campus initiatives. Students can submit their sustainability ideas at http://islandgreen.tamucc.edu/.

Through this project, Ferrell seized the opportunity to build her leadership skills and her resume. As a result of her hard work, Ferrell was offered a research intern position with 3E Werks, a Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center company, she was later promoted to marketing specialist.

The Environmental Service Fee Refund, in fall 2011, students voted to implement the “green fee” into their tuition, to create a fund specifically dedicated to sustainable and environmentally friendly efforts at the University. The program is one of many green campus initiatives. Students can submit their sustainability ideas at http://islandgreen.tamucc.edu/.

Through this project, Ferrell seized the opportunity to build her leadership skills and her resume. As a result of her hard work, Ferrell was offered a research intern position with 3E Werks, a Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center company, she was later promoted to marketing specialist. According to Roy moncada, director for Environmental, Health and Safety, his idea was chosen because of its ease to carry out and its energy cost savings for the campus. The LED lighting project was funded by the University’s environmental service fee proposal for the Jeff and Mary Bell Library.

The LED bulbs have a life span of approximately 70,000 hours of use. “I am a big fan of the outdoors and preserving the environment,” says Ferrell, who will graduate in December. “It’s really important for us to be aware of how much energy we consume and our impact on the environment.” Ferrell submitted her idea in spring 2011. According to Roy Moncada, campus energy conservation coordinator, estimates that the library lights remain on approximately 108 hours per week or 5,600 hours a year.

“The Library is the largest consumer of electricity among student areas on campus,” says Moncada. “The library has the largest volume of lights and stays open longer than any other building. The new bulbs will be efficient and have a more natural light.”

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In fall 2010, Ferrell received a University environmental service fee proposal for the Jeff and Mary Bell Library. When asked if she was happy with the progression of her campaign, Ferrell says, “I have been so eager to help me. There are many people who are interested in the environment.” Ferrell submitted her idea in spring 2011. In her position with 3E Werks, a Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center company, she was later promoted to marketing specialist.

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A Brighter Diamond
NIGHT BASEBALL COMES TO THE ISLAND

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President Flavian Killebrew threw out the first pitch under the lights in front of a raucous crowd at Chapman Field, as the Islanders baseball team unveiled their renovated home for Islanders baseball and softball since 2002, underwent significant upgrades in the 2012 season.

The perimeter of the baseball facility was rebuilt, enclosing the bullpens within the field and improving sight lines for the Islanders faithful. In addition to the berm seating still available beyond the outfield wall, bleacher seating has been greatly expanded at the baseball field. But the most noticeable improvement is the eight-pole lighting system that is bringing night games to Ward Island for the first time. The team will play 10 games under the lights during the 2012 season.

In addition to the upgrades on the island, the system Board of Regents approved preliminary drawings for the soccer/track and field complex on the Momentum Campus on Nile Drive. The facility, scheduled to break ground in the near future, will house the newly established Islanders soccer program. It will also be the home of the track and field teams, which will have a permanent home for the first time in program history.

Plans for a new soccer and track and field complex have been proposed at Momentum Campus.

Southern Night baseball comes to the Islanders. The islands faithful are treated to a raucous crowd at Chapman Field, as the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi baseball team unveiled their renovated home for Islanders baseball and softball since 2002, underwent significant upgrades in the 2012 season.

When he stepped on the University of Corpus Christi campus in 1949, Wendell Byler immediately became a Tarpon in Tarpon athletics. A three-sport letterman, he played football, and baseball, and was a member of the 1950 men’s basketball team that posted a 28-1 record.

Byler almost cut his collegiate career short in 1951 when he caught the attention of Major League Baseball scouts after hitting .430 and slugging 13 home runs for the Tarpons. However, he considered football his number one sport and declined a $5,000 signing bonus from the Chicago White Sox to remain in school. The following year, he was named co-captain of the football team and, at the end of the season, was selected as the Tarpons’ MVP.

After graduating with a degree in education, Byler joined the Army. Following his discharge, he worked for the Texas Department of Health before going into business with his family.

Shanna Caldwell, former assistant coach at the University of Akron, has been selected to lead the new women’s soccer program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Islanders will begin play in fall 2013 as a member of the Southland Conference.

Caldwell, who served as assistant coach for the softball team. This year, she returned to the Island University where she is the pitching coordinator and first assistant coach at the University of Connecticut. Caldwell was one of the nation’s top goalkeepers. Her senior year, she led the NCAA in goals-against average, helping to lead the Huskies to their third straight conference tournament and 20th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

Simply put, Sarah Pauly is a Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi legend. One of only five NCAA Division I pitchers to win 100 games, from 2002-2005 she was the Islanders’ ace, striking out 1,636 batters and posting a 0.88 ERA in 1,049 innings on the mound. Her 112-46 record includes a school record 37 shutouts.

Pauly led the Islanders to three Southland Conference championships during her collegiate career. However, her biggest achievement came in 2004, when she pitched both games of a double-header against Louisiana-Lafayette, the nation’s third-ranked team, shutting out the Ragin’ Cajuns twice, 1-0.

Following her senior year, the record breaking college ace was drafted 16th overall by the Connecticut Branexers in the National Pro Fastpitch (NPF) draft. She pitched for several NPF teams and earned Pitcher of the Year honors. This year, she returned to the Island University where she is the pitching coach for the softball team.

Inspiring “once in a lifetime” performances... on the field and in the classroom.

Year support enables more than 200 athletes to excel in the classroom and on the courts, in the fields and on the railways. Becoming a member of the Islander Athletic Fund is the easy way to benefit from your support of Islander Intercollegiate Athletics. Islander enjoy numerous benefits including priority seating and parking, invitations, special event invitations, and opportunities to protect the Islander spirit.

Call 361.826.6577 or visit giving.tamucc.edu
Kellerbrook, president of Texas A&M- Corpus Christi. “By presenting the smartest, most influential people in their fields to campus, we are able to engage both the academic community and the public in important conversations about national and global events and how they impact our world, today and in the future.”

Among the audience was Daryl Miles, a senior cadet in the Islander Army ROTC Islander Battalion. Miles will graduate in May and report for active duty as a 2nd Lt. and plans to work in Military Intelligence.

“It was an honor to be in the same room with someone of his caliber,” says Miles. “His message is important for someone going into military intelligence: You have to understand how they (the enemy) see things as opposed to how we see things.”

This fall, the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Distinguished Speaker Series will present another prominent individual whose experience and expertise give them a unique perspective on topics ranging from industry and government to academia and the challenges of the 21st century world. To sign up to hear more about the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Distinguished Speaker Series, go to http://www.tamucc.edu/distinguished-speakers/.

**Best and Brightest’ to University**

The Distinguished Speaker Series is the University’s way of bringing the ‘best and the brightest’ minds from all walks of life to Corpus Christi to share their knowledge and experiences as well as their vision of the future,” says Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Distinguished Speaker Series.

**Distinguished Speaker Series Brings ‘Best and Brightest’ to University**

**Endowed Scholarship Council**

Lena D. Coleman, founder and CEO of The L C Foundation, Inc., recently established an endowed scholarship to help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs implemented through the president’s office. Creating a scholarship endowment is one way to ensure your contribution will remain in perpetuity to support higher education and to help the University remain competitive in attracting the brightest students.

In recognition of donations making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council. Donors with cumulative gifts to endowed scholarship funds of $55,000 or more are inducted into the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.

For more information about the Endowed Scholarship Council or other giving opportunities contact Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 4320 Ocean Drive, Unit 3741 Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-7741 361-826-2120

**Alumna Appointed to President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability**

Janie Barrera, a 1977 graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, has been named to President Barack Obama’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability. The Council makes suggestions to the White House on ways to coordinate and maximize the effectiveness of new approaches that increase financial capability and economic access for families and for businesses in the private and public sector.

“As a longtime advocate for small businesses, I bring a voice that has been absent from the council,” says Barrera, founding president and chief executive officer of ACCION Texas, the largest nonprofit micro-lending organization in the United States. “Many people don’t realize that the vast majority of businesses in this country have less than 20 employees. They need access to capital to thrive and grow.”

Barrera’s appointment to the President’s Council is just the latest stop on a path that began when, after graduating from Corpus Christi’s Incarnate Word High School in 1973, she entered a convent and took her vows as a nun two years later. After graduating from the University in 1977, she became director of telecommunications for the Diocese of Corpus Christi where she helped found the area’s first nonprofit radio stations, KLUX and KHOW, as well as two television production studios.

She also began hosting “Gulf Coast Catholic,” a weekly 30-minute program on local NBC affiliate KRIS TV for 11 years. Barrera left the show in 1986 to pursue her master’s degree in business at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas.

After completing her MBA, Barrera left her religious community and remained in San Antonio where, in 1989, she became marketing director for the U.S. Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division headquartered at Randolph Air Force Base. In 1994, she founded AC-CION Texas, which provides small loans and management training to micro businesses and small businesses in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi. In the last 18 years, the organization has lent more than $125 million to 9,300 people.

“We work through banks and organizations like the Small Business Administration to find new ways to help small, high-risk businesses gain access to credit,” explains Barrera. “In addition to loans, we provide growing business with access to support services and also on making sure that they have good financial records.”

Barrera was named one of the “Twenty Daring Younger People Who Have Helped Shape the City” by the San Antonio Business Journal. Her recognitions include Small Business Administration Financial Services Advocate of the Year, and the Minority Enterprise Development Corporation’s Corporate Advocate of the Year. She also has served on many national, state and local boards, including the Federal Reserve Board’s National Consumer Advisory Council. In December 2008, Ameri- can Banker presented her with the Innovator Award in New York City. This year she was appointed to the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, San Antonio Branch.

**Michael Kovacs**

was named Galveston city manager earlier this year. Kovacs has a master’s degree in public administration, and a bachelor’s degree in political science and criminal justice from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He previously served as assistant city manager for Port Aransas, Texas.

**Alisha Robertson**

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**Gabriel Ayala**

a member of the Yaqui people of southern Arizona, was named “Artist of the Year” at the 13th annual Native American Music Awards held last fall in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ayala earned a bachelor’s degree in Music Performance from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 1995.

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Jay Nistel ‘95 lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is an assistant professor of Pharmacy at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Patrick Gruber ‘99 MBA Management Information Systems lives in Missouri City, Texas. He has worked for Merck for more than nine years developing their Left Ventricular Assist Device system. He and his wife, Christie, have two children, Nicole and Nathan.

Stephanie White ‘05 MBA Finance works in Houston, Texas, and enjoys seeing her nephews as often as she can.

Nancy Goodman, a clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences since 1997, works with underserved groups within the community. Goodman is a progression specialist for the College’s $900,000 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Career Grant and, in July 2011, spoke on “Maximizing Access to Nursing Students Progression Toward Graduation: The Nursing Certification Licensing Exams” at the National Association of Hispanic Nurses Conference. Last year, Goodman organized a spring break trip to the Dominican Republic for her nursing students. Today, she is a three-time recipient of the Outstanding Nursing Faculty Award presented by the Student Nurses Association. She has served on the state Governmental Affairs Committee for the Texas Nurses Association and twice been elected to represent the Association on the American Nursing Association House of Delegates. In 2009 Goodman was named the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Outstanding Alumna of the Year.

Dr. Michelle Maraes graduated in the Island University in 2004 with her bachelor’s degree in communication and a minor in journalism. After earning her master’s degree from Texas Tech and her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska in just five years, she returned as an assistant professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts in 2009. Maraes, who recently received a grant to research online learning, serves as a McNair Scholar mentor and faculty advisor for the Lambda Pi Eta and the Communication Organization of Majors and Minors. She has received numerous recognitions for teaching, research, and service and, in spring 2011, was honored as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence. In the community, she is an active member of the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas and currently serves as secretary on the board of the Southside Rotary Club of Corpus Christi.

Los Wafer Piercefield ’81 BS Secondary Education, ’91 MS Counseling and Guidance lives in Corpus Christi and is a volunteer in the emergency room at Christus Spohn Hospital Shoreline. She enjoys spending time with the grandchildren and traveling.

Marshall R. Endres ‘75 BBA Accounting lives in Athens, Texas, and is looking forward to retirement this summer.

Ben Grande ‘79 BBA Business Administration, ’87 MBA Business Administration lives in Corpus Christi, where he owns a real estate investment company.

Kelly Lynn Gonzalez ‘90 BBA Marketing works for a local community bank in Corpus Christi. She has been married to two children. Her oldest is a freshman at Texas A&M-University-Corpus Christi. Her daughter is a senior at Incarnate Word Academy.

H. Gary Ivey ‘89 BBA Business Administration has served as the director of the university internal audit department in Wichita Falls, Texas. He is looking forward to retirement.

Ben Grande ‘79 BBA Business Administration, ’87 MBA Business Administration lives in Corpus Christi, where he owns a real estate investment company.

Lynda Horsemann Pena ‘85 BBA Management lives in Corpus Christi with her husband, Marty. They have two sons, Chris, 23, and Ryan, 21.

Jay Nistel ’95 lives in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is an assistant professor of Pharmacy at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Patrick Gruber ‘99 MBA Management Information Systems lives in Missouri City, Texas. He has worked for Merck for more than nine years developing their Left Ventricular Assist Device system. He and his wife, Christie, have two children, Nicole and Nathan.

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Grace Guerra-Gonzalez '98 MS Counseling and Guidance Lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she is an agent for the Bexar County Juvenile Extension Program. She and her husband plan to visit Napa Valley, Calif., this summer.

Adam T. Sadler '92 BS Kinesiology/ Sports Management Track coaches high school basketball in Iowa. He and his wife, Tamara, have two girls, 3, and a daughter, 4.

Daryl R. Smithie ’02 BS Kinesiology coaches football, basketball and teaches world history in the Seguin, Texas, ISD. He and his wife, Stacey, have two daughters, 3 and 4.

Janis L. Prather ’02 MS Educational Technology lives in Camp Wood, Texas, with her husband, Vernon. She has a daughter, Maegan, 15, and a son, 11. She is a mother of two children. She teaches reading in junior high school, and high school classes.

Randall E. Stuart ’03 MS Secondary Education teaches eighth-grade at Sterling B. Martin Middle School in the Corpus Christi, TX, ISD, where he is serving his second term as Science Department chairman. He is vice president of the Corpus Christi Rugby Football Club and plays second-row lock for the Corpus Christi Rugby Football Club.

Kathryn J. Yost Gardner ’72 BA English is retired and lives near Corpus Christi with her children, 3 and 4. She volunteers around the Austin area and participates in 5k and 10k events. She has lived in Austin, Texas, for 10 years.

Velma Sanchez ’99 BA Psychology received a master’s degree in psychology in Corpus Christi with their 6-year-old son, Diego. She works as a personal trainer and music theory, and performance lessons in Corpus Christi and her children living in Aransas Pass, TX, and Corpus Christi and her children living in Corpus Christi. She has six great grandchildren. Four live in Phoenix, Ariz., and two live in San Antonio, Texas. She stays busy with church activities.

Christine J. Murphy ’97 BA Psychology received her master’s degree in psychology in Corpus Christi and has five great grandchildren. Four live in Phoenix, Ariz., and two live in San Antonio, Texas. She teaches elementary art and maintains a studio at the home in Corpus Christi, and travels to Europe.

Tina F. Smith ’96 BA Psychology received her master’s degree in psychology in Corpus Christi and has five great grandchildren. Four live in Phoenix, Ariz., and two live in San Antonio, Texas. She teaches elementary art and maintains a studio at the home in Corpus Christi, and travels to Europe.
Veraonica Ramirez ’01 BM Music is a voice coach in Laredo, Texas. She was appointed as music director for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Laredo and will direct the Laredo Theater Guild International’s 2012 summer production of the musical “Cinderella.”

Manuel Cruz ‘02 BA Communications lives in Carrollton, Texas, He has been cast as Row B, Seat 8 Thompson in The Core Theatres production of “Don’t Kick the Turkey.”

Lawrence Morgan ’02 English teaches English at Lone Star College and freshman English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He has been recommended for tenure and promotion to associate professor of English.

Marie Netting-Bolles ’04 BFA Art teaches middle school visual and graphic arts in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she is participating in the fourth year of Art Camp. She and her Art Camp youth and community this summer.

Raymundo De Los Santos, Jr. ’94 BA Political Science is the city manager of Alcoa, Texas, where he resides with his wife, Stephanie. They enjoy traveling, making new friends, and bringing in the new.

James Owens ’07 BA Communication specializes in multimedia heavy machinery in Lubbock, Texas.

Vanessa Ballem ’04 BA English, ’96 MA English lives in Katy, Texas, and teaches English for the Lone Star College System in the Houston area.

Carolinda Santos ’05 BA Communication. ’08 MBA Business is a research specialist focusing on ecosystem services at the University’s Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. She enjoys the sunny Texas days and outdoor activities such as surfing and soccer. When possible, she enjoys spending time with her new family, Portugal, to visit friends and family.

Gregory Lee Diehm an ’05 BS Criminal Justice lives in Pensacola, Fla., where he is working on his doctorate in public affairs with a concentration in criminal justice.

Rudy L. Bentancourt ’06 MA Public Administration works for the City of Corpus Christi Neighborhood Service Department. He enjoys traveling, specifically cruises with his family and friends.

Yolanda Cruz ’08 BS Criminal Justice lives in Corpus Christi and is working on a Associate in Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology at Del Mar College.

Niko Flores ’09 BA Communications lives in San Antonio, Texas, and manages a portrait studio in Universal City, Texas. She is looking forward to traveling with friends and family.

Erika Hirtz ’09 BA Art is a student in the Masters of Architecture program at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Elizabeth Lienau ’09 BA Art is pursing her master degree and teacher’s certification at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Robert MacDonald ’09 BS Criminal Justice lives in Leville, Texas, where he is the district chairman of Southwest Texas Boy Scouts of America.

Carlos Martinez ’09 BS BA Theatre teaches theatre arts at Gus Garcia Middle School in the San Antonio, Texas, ISD. He is a certified Zumba instructor and teaches classes four times a week.

Vanita Patel ’09 BA English lives in Corpus Christi. She is looking for a job abroad teaching English as a second language.

Monica Marie Garcia ‘10 BA Studio Art is working on her master’s degree in art at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and is looking forward to having her own exhibit.

Rose Marie V. Rust ’11 BAS Applied Leadership lives in Corpus Christi. She and her spouse are both visiting teaching the Mexican Riverian where they visited Mayan ruins near Progresso, Mexico. She enjoys volunteering at alumni events such as graduation and homecoming.

Melissa Bubela Howell ’05 BSN Nursing lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with her husband, Jonathan, and their two children, Madison, 4, and Ethan, 15 months. Jonathan is a deputy for the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Department. Melissa works as a staff nurse on a Medical-Pulmonary unit at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital.

Tammy Gerberding ’07 BSN Nursing works in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Corpus Christi. She plans to start the MSN in Nursing Leadership program in August 2012.

Linda B. Park ’07 BSN Nursing is the head nurse in the operating room for the Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery Program at Dell Children’s Hospital in Austin, Texas. She plans to apply for the Doctors without Borders Program in the summer of 2012.

Virginia Dosman ’07 MSN Nursing-Leadership is an associate professor in Waco, Texas. She lives in Texas.

Maricela Martinez-Kimbrell ’09 BSN Nursing lives in Kennedy, Texas. She is in the MSN Leadership Track at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and will graduate in August.

Acacia M. Hartsfield ’10 BSN Nursing lives in Yakima, Washington, where she is registered in Surgical Nursing in the hospital. She plans to attend graduate school in August.

Lindsay Hoakins ’11 BSN Nursing is in the operating room nurse in her hometown of Aurora, Colo.

Stephen Charles Richardson ’11 MSN Nursing-Practitioner lives in Gilroy, Calif., where he is working on his doctorate degree in Nursing Practice from Chatham University.

Lloyd Calvin Lindeburg ’58 BS petroleum Engineering is retired and after 17 years of traveling in his RV, is spending time at his home in Corpus Christi, and on his ranch in Hondo, Texas.

Isabel Claire Hemby ’07 MS Environmental Science is an environmental educator volunteer Peace Corps in Demnate, Morocco. She has participated in many health, youth development, and environmental projects during her service, and traveled throughout Europe.

Jessica Montalto ’07 B.S. Biology is an industrial hygienist in San Antonio, Texas.

John M. Bradley ’07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology lives in Sugar Land, Texas, where he plans to move into engineering sales.

Deborah Ann Alain ’98 BS Geology Environmental Science works for a global Environmental Consulting firm in Corpus Christi. She has a daughter who is a senior at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; and in fall 2012, her youngest daughter will enroll at the University.

Lisa Barbo Meaux ’98 BS Environmental Science lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Doug. They had their first grandchild, Emily Jean, in January 2011.

Danyel Tacker ’08 BS Biomedical Sciences and moved to Morgantown, W.Va., in late 2010. Danyel directs the chemical engineering program in the West Virginia University Hospital lab. Matthew is the academic laboratory manager in the Chemistry Department at West Virginia University.

Susie Mary Zepeda ’02 BS Biology and her husband, Philip, live in San Antonio, Texas. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Niume, and 2-year-old son, Daron.

Samantha Mendoza ’06 BS Biomedical Sciences. ’05 BA Counseling is working as an applied behavior analyst through the University of North Texas while living in Corpus Christi. She enjoys volunteering with the Junior League of Corpus Christi.

Linda B. Park ’07 BSN Nursing is the head nurse in the operating room for the Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery Program at Dell Children’s Hospital in Austin, Texas. She plans to apply for the Doctors without Borders Program in the summer of 2012.

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Deborah Ann Alain ’98 BS Geology Environmental Science works for a global Environmental Consulting firm in Corpus Christi. She has a daughter who is a senior at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; and in fall 2012, her youngest daughter will enroll at the University.
University student organizations decorated floats and participated in the Homecoming parade January 28 in downtown Corpus Christi.
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